

Gallery Gourmet

Have a sophisticated palate? Whether you're looking for ideas for dinner or want to enjoy great food without calories, explore the Museum with this tour and you'll find something for any taste.







A



B



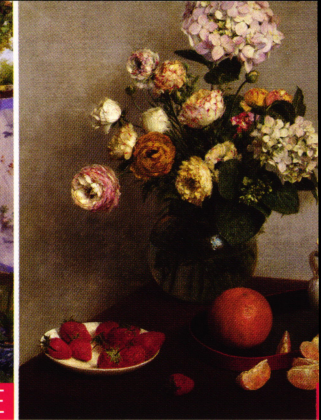
C



D



E



A:: Gallery 23 Jan Davidsz. de Heem, *Still Life with a Lobster*, late 1640s

Just what a gourmet would expect on this tour—an enticing array of rich and exotic foods. Feast your eye on this a while, then look around a bit. There sure seem to be a lot of Dutch paintings that feature food. Dutch 17th-century painters often used food to celebrate abundance but at the same time warn against the vanity of overindulgence, making these works about more than just a good meal.

B:: Great Gallery (Gallery 36) Mattia Preti, *The Feast of Herod*, 1656–61

A rich and elegant setting can enhance any meal—not to mention a good floorshow. But always read the fine print before you sign the contract with the entertainer. The label near the painting tells the whole story, but suffice it to say there's more than the typical family mealtime drama going on here

C:: Gallery 28B Sèvres Factory, *Pieces from the Rohan Service*, about 1771–72

Think you have a sweet tooth? 200 years ago, dessert was more than a way to end a meal—it was a major event so important that it required its own set of dishes. Cakes, custards, ice creams—each was served in a cup, plate, or bowl designed specifically for that purpose. The turquoise pieces here are part of a dessert service created for a French prince and princess. They indulged their sweet tooth in style.

D:: Gallery 29A Japanese, *Picnic Box*, about 1760

Things somehow taste better when you eat them outdoors. This set held everything needed for the perfect sumptuous Japanese picnic—in one easy-to-carry package. The stacking compartments would have contained rice, fish, vegetables, and pickles to enjoy while viewing the blossoming cherry trees or the changing autumn leaves. The bottles held sake (alcohol brewed from rice) for those less interested in the nature-viewing part.

E:: Gallery 30B William Merrit Chase, *The Open Air Breakfast*, about 1888

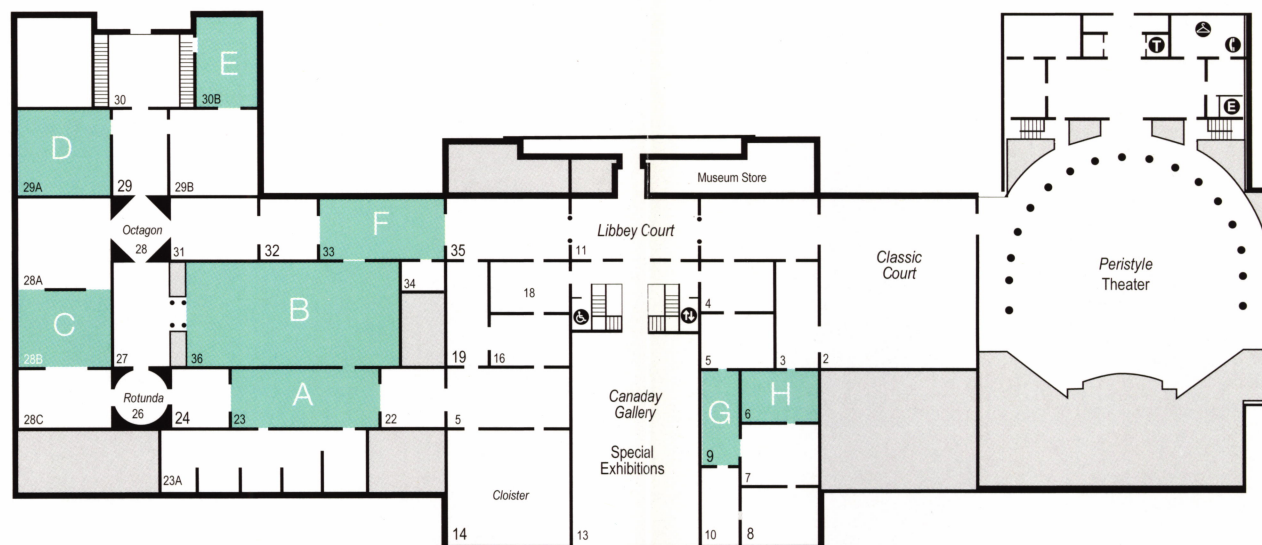
The title gives this one away—though it is hard to tell what might be on the menu. It seems in this case that the relaxed atmosphere (check out the dog) and aesthetic setting (yes, that's a Japanese screen in the backyard) may be

more important than the meal itself. Sometimes the people you're with and where you are matter more than the meal you share.

F:: Gallery 33 Henri Fantin-Latour, *Flowers and Fruit*, 1866

If overindulgence isn't your thing, try this simple and healthy snack. The artist was interested in capturing the interplay of color and texture between these ordinary objects. The results are quite refreshing, not to mention filled with Vitamin C!

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G:: Gallery 9 Richard Estes, *Helene's Florist*, 1971

Most people only notice the florist shop. Look a little closer and you'll find a place to satisfy your hunger. And with those bargain prices (remember, this painting was made in 1971), you can afford to eat your fill.

H:: African Gallery (Gallery 6) Dan Peoples, *Feast-making Spoon*, 20th century

Though this might look like an elaborate cooking utensil, it is really a ceremonial badge of honor. Hospitality is highly valued among the Dan peoples of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) and Liberia, and a spoon like this was given on a special feast day to the woman with the reputation for being most hospitable. The size of the spoon symbolizes her success as a farmer and the depth of the bowl is based on how much rice she is able to give to others.

If this tour leaves you hungry for more, don't miss the Museum Café or the Glass Pavilion Coffee Bar!

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